

Governor Wilson and Harper's Weekly

ingrate part, we would better wait for further developments to tell.

Conspicuous recent incidents in the presidential campaign give good reason why those who have been his friends hitherto should not, as Colonel Watterson does, throw Wilson over at just this point. It is stated by men who have the best means of securing accurate information that the break between the two men was caused quite as much by Governor Wilson's refusal to "take orders" from Colonel Harvey, as by his frankness in telling the colonel the truth about the effect of his support. There has been obviously a desperate and none too scrupulous show of enmity against Wilson of late in quarters such as invite friendship in other quarters. There was first the story of Wilson's application for a Carnegie pension, an act not discreditable in itself yet published for the obvious purpose of discrediting him. Collier's boldly ascribed this leak to members of New York's financial hierarchy who are also trustees of the Carnegie pension fund. Then came the publication of the Joline letter, a private letter to a former railroad president who sees nothing despicable or improper in publishing confidential correspondence. Still other private letters have been published for his embarrassment. Clearly some powerful machinery has been engaged in efforts to undermine Wilson. This Harper's incident may or may not be a part of this process. We can wait and see.

We observe that Mayor Dahlman, who sponsors the Harmon campaign in Omaha, sees in Wilson's supposed break with a friend final evidence of the former's unfitness for public honors. We should not be too sure of that. Devotion to friends is a great thing, but the history of America is blotted with official loyalty to friends at the price of disloyalty to the public interest. "What's the constitution between friends?" We shall never have honest or just government so long as loyalty to personal friends is held a higher virtue than loyalty to country. Before condemning Wilson for breaking with Harvey we should see what would have been the price of continued friendship.

SENATOR GORE'S OPINION

United Press dispatch: Washington, Jan. 19.
—Senator Gore (dem., Okla.), today gave his views of the break between Governor Wilson and Colonel Harvey, as follows:

"This whole Wilson-Harvey-Watterson incident is a bubble, not a billow. It seems that the head and heart of the governor's offending is that he told the truth.

"No honest man can accept an office with a lien upon his conscience or his conduct.

"To decline tendered aid and alliance is a most difficult and delicate task.

"To do so in the face of danger is an act of moral and political heroism of which few men are capable.

"The critics of Governor Wilson should tell the public frankly whether their candidates would assume such an obligation as the governor declined, and, if so, whether their candidates would disregard or would discharge such obligations.

"I would rather see Governor Wilson defeated with his heart an open book, than to see him triumphant with a skeleton in his political closet, which has been concealed from the eyes of the public."

SENATOR NEWLANDS FOR WILSON

A Washington dispatch, carried by the Associated Press, says: Senator Francis G. Newlands of Nevada declined to permit the use of his name as a candidate for the democratic presidential nomination, and declared himself in favor of the candidacy of Governor Wilson of New Jersey.

Senator Newlands has received the indorsement of the Nevada legislature, as well as pledges of support from several Pacific and intermountain states. In his letter of declination to Clay Taltman, chairman of the Nevada state central committee, Senator Newlands said:

"The movement for higher political standards inaugurated by Bryan has made a profound impression upon both parties and has produced a new crop of statesmen, differing in ideals and standards from those of a previous generation. Among these Woodrow Wilson has become the national choice, and has become, to a greater degree than any one else, except Bryan, representative of the democratic conscience. It is evident that the big interests have isolated Wilson from all the other candidates and have made him the special object of attack. There is all the more reason, therefore, why democrats of Nevada and the west, should recognize him as the true progressive leader and rally to his support."

WOODROW WILSON AND HIS FRIENDS

In an editorial entitled "Wilson and His Friends," the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal says:

We need be in no hurry to reclassify Woodrow Wilson as a result of the Harper's incident. We have Henry Watterson for it that Wilson told Harvey, when pressed to say, that the latter's support was hindering the former's presidential chances. That is a matter long widely recognized as a fact. It is generally understood that the paper Colonel Harvey edits is owned by the financial kings of the United States. This fact was well advertised, while Harper's was supporting Wilson, by the latter's enemies. There was no quarrel, so Mr. Watterson who was present tells us. Colonel Harvey merely took Wilson's statement of fact to heart and hauled down his Wilson flag. Whether there was an

The Washington correspondent for the New York Sun tells the story of how the break between Messrs. Roosevelt and Taft began. He says: But possibly the crowning act was when President Taft on the eve of President Roosevelt's departure for Africa sent him a missive wishing for a happy and healthful trip, and closing with the expression: "I owe more to Charles P. Taft and you than any two men on earth," or substantially those words. Roosevelt's friends have made no secret of his anger over that letter, for they tell you that in his vociferous way he brandished the letter and cried:

"Good Lord, he puts money above brains, does he!"

Whether that was a tactful letter for President Taft to write to a man of Roosevelt's strenuous mentality is a matter for political philosophers to solve. President Taft, however, has told his friends when speaking of that letter that he intended to pay Roosevelt the highest compliment at his command.

The reasons for Mr. Harmon's lukewarmness, to use a complimentary term, are well known to Ohio democratic leaders. In private interviews he had opposed this plan, and it was not until he realized its value as a presidential asset that he declared in favor of the Oregon plan. After he had taken such a stand, in the state convention at Dayton he used his influence to defeat such a declaration in the platform, and simply wanted to declare for the election of senators by the people. Finally Chairman Finley arranged a compromise by which the party pledged a democratic legislature, if elected, to take the necessary steps towards a convention of the states to adopt a constitutional amendment of that character. In spite also of his claim that he favored the direct election of senators, he opposed the nomination of the Dayton democratic convention of a candidate for senator, calling party leaders into his office to impress upon them his wishes. At the same time he knew four-fifths of the delegates were committed to that principle and in favor of taking such action. Out of deference to him they surrendered these convictions and allowed the convention to adjourn without making a nomination.

A SOUTHERN CANDIDATE

If the south wants the presidential candidate why does she not pick out some democrat who represents the progressive democracy and present him to the country. The north has no objection to a southern man but it would object to a Wall street man residing in the south or in any other section. The south is full of big men; there is scarcely a state in the south which does not contain men of presidential size. Why are these overlooked and only those mentioned who are aristocratic or plutocratic in sympathy? There is Hoke Smith, for instance; he has a national reputation. He was in Cleveland's cabinet and resigned to support the ticket in 1896. He has been elected governor twice and is now senator. He is a reformer with courage enough to fight a whole regiment of Wall street mercenaries. What's the matter with Smith?

Then, there is Senator James of Kentucky, one of the ablest and bravest reformers at Washington. He is one of the most eloquent campaign orators in the country. He would be a million votes stronger than Underwood.

Governor Campbell of Texas would make a splendid president and a popular candidate, too. He has been tested and has met every responsibility.

These are only a few—their name is legion. Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee—in fact, all the states of the southland have men who have won distinction at home by championing the rights of the people. Why not select one of these? Why is it that no man east, west or south can be considered unless he has the brand of the New York plunderbund on him? It is simply because a subsidized or terrorized press magnifies the ability and availability of every betrayer of the masses and belittles every public man who speaks out against the exploitation of the common people.

WILL YOU JOIN IN THE EFFORT
TO INCREASE THE COMMONER'S CIR-
CULATION FOR 1912?
TAKE IT UP AT ONCE WITH YOUR
NEIGHBOR.

NEIGHBOR.